

The Office Action suggests that the specification does not teach regions or domains of the protein which are essential for trichodiene synthase activity, such as what amino acids are in the active site, the binding pocket or the hydrophobic core of the protein. Again, Applicants are simply claiming fragments having trichodiene synthase activity which involve removing one or more amino acids from the amino and/or carboxyl terminus of SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants are not claiming variants of SEQ IDS NO:2 where an amino acid residue is deleted from, for example, the active site of the enzyme.

Applicants submit that claims to such fragments, as claimed herein, are allowable subject matter as is evidenced by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,221,644, 6,372,464, and 6,489,154 (see attached), which have similar disclosures as the instant case.

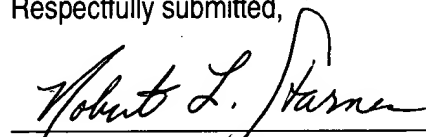
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the new claims overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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